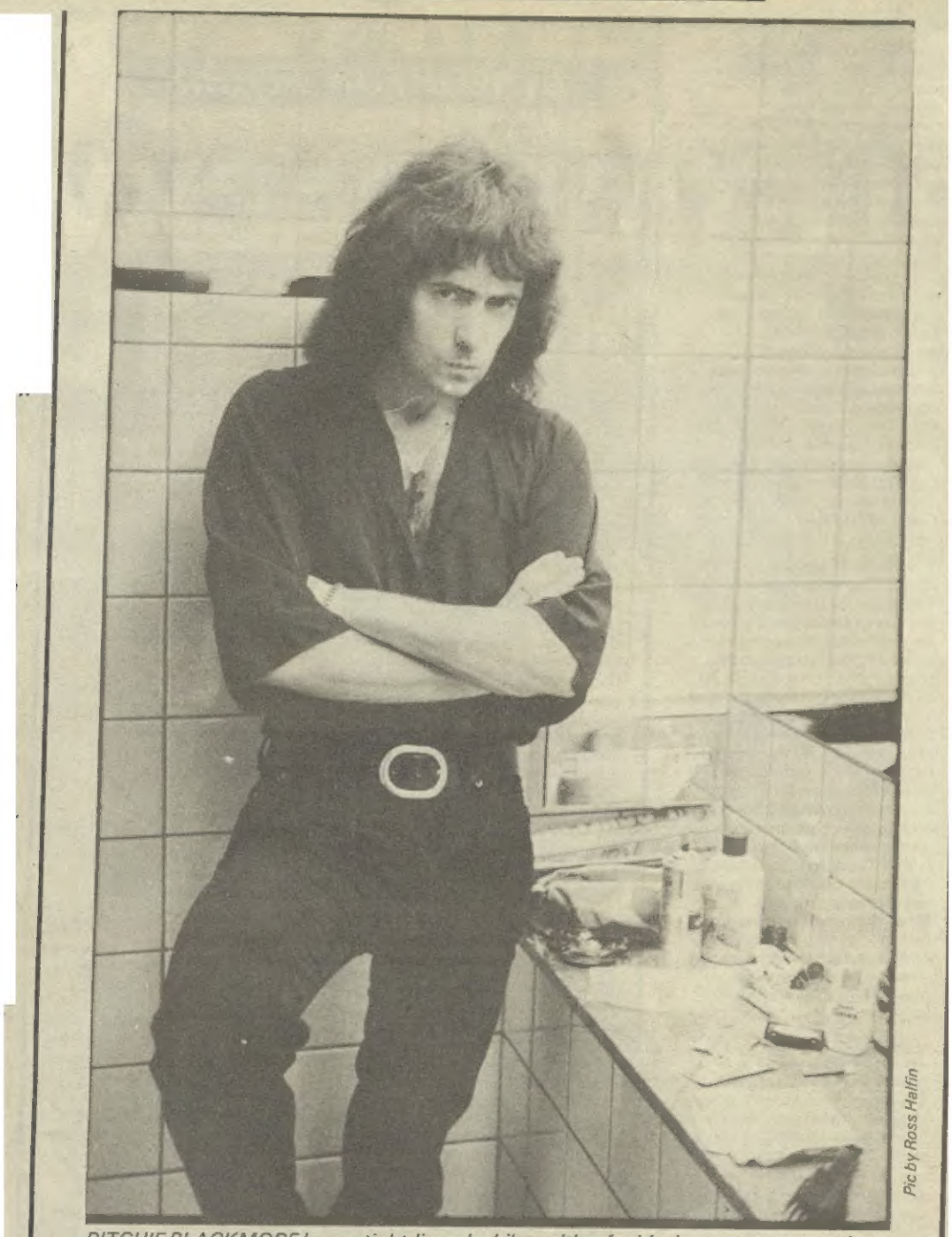
SUSANNE GARRETT shines a beacon of hope in a world of doom and gloom



Pic by Ross Halfin

RITCHIE BLACKMORE keeps tight-lipped while waiting for his dentures to come clean

The Rainbow room

AS SOON as I heard that tickets for the 1981 Rainbow concerts were to go on sale in March, I sent away a £10 postal order to Newcastle Upon Tyne City Hall for two front row tickets. My application was sent back, with the information that Rainbow hadn't booked there yet!

Same answer two weeks later when I wrote and phoned. Then I found out that tickets could only be bought through the official Rainbow fan club and I'm not a member.

Now it seems tickets will be going on sale to the general public (which probably means we'll get all the crap seats!) What's the story? Why are fans who're not in the fan club being messed about? — **Ritchie's Greatest Fan, South Shields.**

YOU'RE NOT. At the time of going to press, Rainbow tickets haven't been ordered, let alone printed. No-one has them — not even fan club members — and promoter Paul Loasby of Kiltorch Ltd has only just finalised details of the 13-dater July bash with Rainbow management in the States.

Blackmore's dozen due to happen at unseated venues between July 10 and 25 this year will cover Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, but band and promoter are seeking an alternative venue to the City Hall, as yet unconfirmed.

Fan Club members will get priority booking, as many dedicated followers who've since joined the club which started in April last year missed out on the last Rainbow extravaganza in February 1980. But non-members will have the same choice of standing space, although the club will be allocated enough tickets to cater for membership demand.

It's not too late to join the Rainbow Fan Club and ensure yourself a ticket or two. For details write to Rainbow Fan Club, PO Box 7, Prescott, Merseyside. English dues: £4,00 a year. European: £4,50.